

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes January 28, 2004

Members/Representatives Present:

- Mandi Batalo, County Library
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Jeronimo Breen, Department of Behavioral Health
- Sandra Baxter, County Counsel
- Cathy Cimbalo, Department of Children's Services
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender
- Jim Felten, Department of Public Health
- Eric Frykman, Department of Public Health
- Gerald Greene, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- Bonnie Konowitch, Scripps College – Foundation and Corporate Relations
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Rudy Lopez, Department of Behavioral Health
- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Ed Rowe, Children's Network
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Mike Stodelle, Sheriff's Department
- Honorable Rex Victor
- Ray Wingerd, Interim Chief Probation Department
- Roberta York, Preschool Services Department
- Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
- Ana Vargas-Villena
- Warren Nobles, S.B. Sheriff Dept.
- Commissioner Raymond Haight, Juvenile Court
- Bruce Smith, Department of Public Health
- Anthony Rubio, Children's Network
- Brian Pickering, HSS Legislation and Research
- Rafael Contreras, Grand Jury
- R. J. Wilkln, Grand Jury
- Lois Long, Grand Jury
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:00 p.m. and convened by Honorable Rex Victor in the Citrus Room, fifth floor, County Government Center.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Rex Victor welcomed those present and self-introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as read.

3.0 Approval of December Minutes

The December 3, 2003 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children's Fund Report

- Rebecca Stafford reported they had a very charitable Christmas campaign for 2003.
- They obtained 88,000 toys for 30,000 children.
- \$970,000 was the total amount in gifts and toys
- They are now busy now directing their efforts to the next big event, the Annual Rubber Duck Race.

4.2 Bonnie Konowitch

- Kent Paxton presented Bonnie Konowitch with a recognition plaque. Bonnie officially left County employment as a Grant Writing Consultant for Children's Network on January 16, 2004.
- She is now the Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations for Scripps College in Claremont.
- Bonnie was responsible for assisting non-profits and county agencies in bringing in over \$25 million in grant funding during her tenure with Children's Network.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Jerry D. Recommendations: Discussion/Action Requested to Pursue the Creation of a Specialized Transitional Age Youth Residential Treatment Program

Kent Paxton referred everyone to the 5.1 Jerry D. Recommendations.

- **Action: Kent Paxton mentioned that a Transitional Age MDT was formed to focus on youth transitioning out of the juvenile system needing case coordination for the high-risk cases. Ed Rowe of Children's Network is the chairperson for this group, so please contact him for referral of cases.**
- **Action: Kent Paxton will assemble a small group to discuss what a model residential treatment would like for youth ages 17 to 21; and he will bring back recommendations to the Children's Network Policy Council.**

6.0 Dr. Ira Chasnoff and Perinatal Leadership Team

- Dr. Ira Chasnoff has been consulting with the Perinatal Leadership Team, a subcommittee of Children's Policy Council.
- Dr. Bruce Smith has been leading the effort to reduce the impacts of alcohol and other drugs on pregnant and parenting women and their babies for many years.

Dr. Ira Chasnoff gave a power point presentation that went over some of the main points:

- There are typical physical features present in children exposed to alcohol and drugs.
- Research has been conducted on the neuropsychological affects in the brain and how the pathways such as; visual, auditory, taste, touch and smell along with decision making and regulation of emotions are impacted through perinatal exposure.
- Dr. Ira Chasnoff showed slides that demonstrated the affects of alcohol on I.Q. and presents A.D.H.D. qualities.
- Dr. Ira Chasnoff mentioned the most critical time for affects from alcohol and drug exposure for the baby is the first three weeks to a month, which presents a problem since many times the mother may not be aware she is pregnant.
- The statistics in San Bernardino County demonstrate approximately 27,000 to 30,000 deliveries a year. With 10% being affected at birth by drugs and alcohol that equals to 3,000 children the community must deal with

the schools, law enforcement, and a variety of other problems.

- The research also shows that the drug using women have problems with attachment disorders in their babies. Research shows that from gestation of 6 months until 3 years is the most critical time for attachment, nurturing, and love of a consistent caregiver. If the baby does not feel attachment, signs of reactive action disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, and ADHD become problems.
- Dr. Ira Chasnoff mentioned the next step for this county to focus on is the concept of a Children's Center based on the model in Chicago that deals with treatment and evaluation of high-risk children born to alcohol and drugs.
- Dr. Chasnoff suggested a web site WWW.CHILDSTUDY.ORG for more statistical information.
- **Action: Kent Paxton mentioned that a number of the Policy Council Members are members on the Perinatal Leadership Team as well. The Perinatal Leadership Team (PLT) has been meeting since last June and presented an action plan to the Policy Council members. The outcomes are improved for children with the perinatal substance abuse for early intervention. Kent mentioned the PLT will continue its' work with the hopes of opening a Children's Center in the next 3 years.**

7.0 Other

- Susan Melanson referred everyone to the nomination packets. The nomination deadline has been extended from February 9th to February 13th. This year all the categories will not be covered, so that the presentations are not rushed.
- You will also find in your packets the Save the Date flyer for the Children's Network Shine the Light on Child Abuse Breakfast scheduled for March 31st at 7:30 a.m. at the Doubletree in Ontario.
- Susan mentioned to save the date on your calendars for September 30th, Children's Network Annual Conference. Dr. Ira Chasnoff will be the keynote speaker.

Kent mentioned that the Group Home Policy would be brought back to the agenda in February.

8.0 Public Comment

No comment.

9.0 Next Meeting: February 25, 2004

Respectfully Submitted,

**Tammy Williams, Children's Network
Policy Council Recording Secretary**

/tgw